

Application No. 10/634,041

Amendment dated 9/8/2004 responding to Office Action dated 6/8/2004

REMARKS

These remarks address the Examiner's comments made in the Office Action mailed 6/8/2004. The section numbers used below parallel those used in corresponding sections of the office action.

(1) Objection to Claim 13

Claim 13 has been amended, replacing "motorcycle" with "two-wheeled vehicle", curing the antecedent basis problem.

(2) Rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 10 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC second paragraph as failing to limit/describe the respective precedent claims.

Claims 10 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice.

(3) Rejection over Hoose

Claims 1,10-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over US Patent No. 6,017,047 to Hoose.

Hoose teaches a sort of "double-ended" fork with female sliders at each end. Hoose's lower shocks 41 and 42 are not fork bottoms, and do not have "different stiffness in the longitudinal direction than in a lateral direction" as required in the Claims.

Stiffness is different than telescopic action. In fact, Hoose's lower fork sliders 41, 42 appear to exhibit exactly the problem which the present invention solves. Hoose's lower fork sliders are cylindrical and, therefore, have the same stiffness in the longitudinal and lateral directions.

If the Hoose motorcycle were to encounter roadway bumps, ripples, potholes, etc. in the middle of a high-speed corner, with the motorcycle laying far over on its side, the bumps etc. would impact Hoose's forks in a direction substantially perpendicular to the telescopic axis of the forks – that is, almost directly from the side. Neither the upper nor the lower telescopic shock portions of the shocks will telescope, because the bump is coming at the axis of the wheel, not

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the axis of the shock. However stiff the Hoose lower fork sliders 41, 42 were made to resist bending under heavy braking, that's how stiff they will be in response to the bumps in the road while cornering.

By way of contrast, Claim 1 recites that the fork lower has "different stiffness in the longitudinal direction than in a lateral direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal direction", Claim 13 recites that the fork bottoms have "have different stiffness in a longitudinal direction of travel of the two-wheeled vehicle than in a lateral direction substantially parallel to the axle", and Claim 23 recites that the fork lower body has "different longitudinal stiffness than lateral stiffness".

(4.a) Objection

Claims 2-9,14-20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the base claims are allowable, and that the dependent claims should not be objected to.

(4.b) Allowable if Rewritten

Claims 21-28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 112 rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the 112 rejection has been overcome and that the Claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all remaining Claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of the patent.

Respectfully submitted,



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